THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The core showed patchy flourescence and positive cut but the interval produced water on testing.

(b) The second location in Chandkuri area was cancelled based on interpretation of geo-scientific of geo-scientific data.

(c) and (d) Two blocks namely BW-ON-90|1 and WB-ON.90|2 which respectively surround Ichapur and Chandkuri wells, have been offered:—

— to encurage private risk capital in the field of hydrocarbon exploration.

— to supplement the efforts of national oil companies.

— to increase the pace of exploration in the country.

— to introduce any new technology or idea which these companies might bring with them.

Expenditure incurred in Oman Gas Pipeline project

258. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the project for laying the deepest underwater natural gas pipeline from Oman to India;

(b) what is the latest position about the implementation of this project and by what time this pipeline will become operational;

(c) how much expenditure has been incurred upon this project so far; and

(d) what will be the total cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARA): (a) to (d) The Oman Oil Company (OOC) has completed the pre-feasibility study or 56.6 MMSCMD of gas to India through a direct deep-sea route. No expenditure on the project has been incurred by the Government. The OOC have indicated that the investment in the project will be around US $ 5 billion.

बिहार के बांका जिले में गैस एजेंसी का खोला जाना

259. श्री जनार्दन यादव : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार के बांका जिले में एल पी जी का कोई एजेंट नहीं हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि किसी भी गैस एजेंसी के न होने के कारण बांका जिले की जनता को बहुत मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ता हैं ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार बांका में गैस एजेंसी आवंटित करने का विचार रखती हैं, यदि हां, तो कब तक, और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) बांका में कोई एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर शिप नहीं है ;

(ख) और (ग) बांका में एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर शिप के लिए बिहार के तेल चयन बोर्ड के माध्यम से डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर के चयन हेतु पहले ही विज्ञापन दे दिया गया है ।

Private agencies engaged in LPG Distributorship

269. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

(a) whether Government have authorised private agencies to provide new cooking gas connections

and supply of LPG cylinders to the public;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and many agencies are running at present stating the name and the time of authority provided to them, State-wise details thereof

(c) if not, why the private agencies are inviting people for taking new LPG connections and whether Government have taken any action against such agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Under the Parallel Marketing System, private agencies have been allowed to import LPG, using/setting up their own facilities and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG, at market determined prices. No permission is required to be obtained from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking parallel marketing. However, they will have to obtain necessary approval under relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety; pollution control etc.; as applicable.

(b) to (d) Under the Parallel Marketing System private agencies are free to appoint distributors and register customers; without any involvement of Government. However, the State and UT Governments have been advised to ban collection of deposits by parallel marketeers for appointment of dealers and distributors as well as for registration of LPG customers without making adequate arrangements for regular supply of LPG.

Joint venture with China in Petroleum sector

261. MASS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to China, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas signed any MOUs for joint venture between India and China in Petroleum sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the terms and conditions investment involved therein and benefits likely to accrue to both India and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) At the conclusion of the recent visit of Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas to China, agreed minutes were signed between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the China National Petroleum Corporation for cooperation in the oil and gas sector. Memranda of understanding were also signed between ONGC, Oil India Ltd. and Engineers India Ltd. and their Chinese counterpart companies for cooperation in their related fields in the oil and gas sector.

Discovery of oil by ONGC in Tripura

262. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has discovered huge gas deposits of about 28 billion cubic meters in Tripura;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this gas can be supplied to gas based industries (viz. fertilizers, methanol or power plants) with modest gas demand at least for 20 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that several such proposals adequately processed by the State Government of Tripura have recently been turned down by the Central Government;